NUMB. DXXIX.

# The SPECTATOR.

*Singula quæque locum teneant ſortita decenter.* Hor.

*Thurſday, November* 6. 1712.

UPON the hearing of ſeveral late Diſputes concerning Rank and Precedence, I could not forbear amuſing my ſelf with ſome Obſervations, which I have made upon the Learned World, as to this great Particular. By the Learned World I here mean at large, all thoſe who are any way concerned in Works of Literature, whether in the Writing, Printing or Repeating Part. To begin with the Writers; I have obſerved that the Author of a *Folio*, in all Companies and Converſations, ſets himſelf above the Author of a *Quarto*; the Author of a *Quarto* above the Author of an *Octavo*; and ſo on, by a gradual Deſcent and Subordination, to an Author in *Twenty-Fours*. This Diſtinction is ſo well obſerved, that in an Aſſembly of the Learned, I have ſeen a *Folio* Writer place himſelf in an Elbow-chair, when the Author of a *Duo-decimo* has, out of a juſt Deference to his ſuperior Quality, ſeated himſelf upon a Squabb. In a Word, Authors are uſually ranged in Company after the ſame manner as their Works are upon a Shelf.

The moſt Minute Pocket-Author, hath beneath him the Writers of all Pamphlets, or Works that are only ſtitched. As for the Pamphleteer, he takes place of none but of the Authors of ſingle Sheets, and of that Fraternity who publiſh their Labours on certain Days, or on every Day of the Week. I do not find that the Precedency among the Individuals, in this latter Claſs of Writers, is yet ſetled.

(Price Two-pence.)

For my own part, I have had ſo ſtrict a Regard to the Ceremonial which prevails in the Learned World, that I never preſumed to take Place of a Pamphleteer till my daily Papers were gathered into thoſe two firſt Volumes, which have already appeared. After which, I naturally jumped over the Heads not only of all Pamphleteers, but of every *Octavo* Writer in *Great-Britain*, that had written but one Book. I am alſo informed by my Bookſeller, that ſix *Octavo's* have at all times been looked upon as an Equivalent to a *Folio*, which I take notice of the rather, becauſe I would not have the Learned World ſurprized, if after the Publication of half a dozen Volumes I take my Place accordingly. When my ſcattered Forces are thus rallied, and reduced into Regular Bodies, I flatter my ſelf that I ſhall make no deſpicable Figure at the Head of them.

Whether theſe Rules, which have been received time out of Mind in the Common-Wealth of Letters, were not originally eſtabliſhed with an eye to our Paper Manufacture, I ſhall leave to the Diſcuſſion of others, and ſhall only remark further in this Place, that all Printers and Bookſellers take the Wall of one another, according to the abovementioned Merits of the Authors to whom they reſpectively belong.

I come now to that Point of Precedency which is ſetled among the three Learned Profeſſions, by the Wiſdom of our Laws. I need not here take Notice,

Notice of the Rank which is allotted to every Doctor in each of these Professions, who are all of them, tho' not so high as Knights, yet a Degree above Squires; This last Order of Men being the illiterate Body of the Nation, are consequently thrown together into a Class below the three Learned Professions. I mention this for the sake of several Rural 'Squires, who's Reading does not rise so high as to *the present State of England*, and who are often apt to usurp that Precedency which by the Laws of their Country is not due to them. Their Want of Learning, which has planted them in this Station, may in some measure extenuate their Misdemeanour, and our Professors ought to pardon them when they offend in this Particular, considering that they are in a State of Ignorance, or, as we usually say, do not know their Right Hand from their Left.

There is another Tribe of Persons who are Retainers to the Learned World, and who regulate themselves upon all Occasions by several Laws peculiar to their Body. I mean the Players or Actors of both Sexes. Among these it is a standing and uncontroverted Principle, that a Tragedian always takes Place of a Comedian; and 'tis very well known the merry Drolls that make us laugh are always placed at the lower end of the Table, and in every Entertainment give way to the Dignity of the Buskin. It is a Stage Maxim, Once a King and always a King. For this Reason it would be thought very absurd in Mr. *Bullock*, notwithstanding the Height and Gracefulness of his Person, to sit at the Right Hand of an Hero, though he were but five Foot high. The same Distinction is observed among the Ladies of the Theatre. Queens and Heroines preserve their Rank in private Conversation, while those who are Waiting-Women and Maids of Honour upon the Stage, keep their Distance also behind the Scenes.

I shall only add, that by a Parity of Reason, all Writers of Tragedy look upon it as their due to be seated, served, or saluted before Comick Writers: Those who deal in Tragi-Comedy usually taking their Seats between the Authors of either side. There has been a long Dispute for Precedency between the Tragick and Heroick Poets. *Aristotle* would have the latter yield the *Pas* to the former, but Mr. *Dryden* and many others would never submit to this Decision. Burlesque Writers pay the same Deference to the Heroick, as Comick Writers to their Serious Brothers in the Drama.

By this short Table of Laws, Order is kept up, and Distinction preserved in the whole Republick of Letters.


*ADVERTISEMENTS.*

At the particular Desire of several Ladies of Quality
By her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this present Thursday being the 6th Day of November, will be presented a Comedy call'd the Stratagem. Aimwell by Mr. Mills, Archer by Mr. Wilks, Boniface by Mr. Bullock Sen. Sullen by Mr. Keene, Foigard by Mr. Bowen, Scrub by Mr. Norris, Mrs. Sullen by Mrs. Oldfield, Dorinda by Mrs. Bradshaw. And to Morrow will be presented a new Play (never Acted before) call'd, the Successful Pyrate. By His Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

This Day is Publish'd, the Second Edition of

A Poem to His Excellency, the Lord Privy-Seal, on the Prospect of PEACE. By Mr. Tickell. Printed for Jacob Tonson against Katherine Street in the Strand.

Just Published,

A Sermon preached to the Protestants of Ireland, now in London, at the Parish-Church of St. Clements Dane, October 23. 1712. being the Day appointed by Act of Parliament in Ireland for an Anniversary Thanksgiving for the Deliverance of the Protestants of that Kingdom from the bloody Massacre begun by the Irish Papists on the 23d of October, 1641. By St. George, Lord Bishop of Clogher. Printed for Sam. Buckley at the Dolphin in Little-Britain. Price 3 d.

This Day is Publish'd,

The Faithful General, a Tragedy, price 1 s. 6d.

The Works of Mr. Nathaniel Lee collected into 2 Vols. price 14 s. The Works of Mr. William Wycherly, collected into one Volume, Price 6 s. The Lovers Secretary; or, the Adventures of Lindamira a Lady of Quality: Writ with her own Hand to her Friend in the Country, in 24 Letters, being an account of her Intrigues and Amours from 15 Years to 50, price 2 s. 6 d. Cockers Decimal Arithmetick, the fourth Edition, price 3 s. 6 d. Familiar Letters writ by John late Earl of Rochester, price 5 s. Incognita; or, Love and Duty Reconcil'd, a Novel, by Mr. Congreve, price 1 s. 6 d. Printed for R. Wellington at the Dolphin and Crown in St. Paul's Church-Yard. Where are sold all sort of Plays.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

This Day the 6th of November, at Garraway's Coffee-House in Exchange Ally in Cornhill, at 4 in Afternoon 105 Casks of fine Battavia Arrack Genuine and of the True Flavour (only one Cask in a Lot) gages about 30, 40, 60, 70 to above 140 Gallons per Cask, neat as Imported, with the remaining Part of the Cargo of the Grey Frigat Captain John Ogle from East India, is the best that has been Imported these many Years. Continuing in the Cellar No. 1 fronting the Thames at Buttolph Wharf, and in a Ware-house No. 2 up one Pair of Staire in the Passage over the old Counting-house, and the Gate-way of Buttolph Wharf aforesaid, between London Bridge and Billingsgate. Note, the said Arrack is to be seen and tasted this Day as above, till the time of Sale. Catalogues to be had where the said Arrack lyes, and at the Place of Sale &c. To be sold by Th. Tomkins in Seething-Lane in Tower-Street.

A Gelding fit for a Portmantle, as also a Saddle Mare to be Sold. Inquire at Warwick Stables by Grey's-Inn.

The Ketir'd Gard'ner, or, Dialogues between a Gentleman and a Gard'ner: Containing the Methods of Making, Ordering and Improving a Fruit and Kitchin-Garden, together with the Manner of Planting and Cultivating Flowers, Plants, Shrubs and Under-Shrubs, necessary for the Adorning of Gardens, &c. In which is explain'd, the Art of Making and Disposing of Parterres, Arbours of Greens, Wood-Works, Arches, Columns, and other Pieces and Compartments usually found in the most Beautiful Gardens of Country-Seats. The whole enrich'd with Variety of Figures, being a Translation from the Sieur Louis Liger. To which is added, a Description and Plan of Count Tallard's Garden at Nottingham. The whole Revis'd with several Alterations and Additions, which render it proper for our English Culture. By George London, and Henry Wise. The Works of Mr. Francis Beaumont and Mr. John Fletcher, in 7 Vols. 8vo. adorn'd with Cuts. Plutarch's Lives in 5 Vols. translated by several hands. Seneca's Morals translated by Sir Roger l'Estrange. The Satyrs of Decimus Junius Juvenalis, &c. translated into English Verse by Mr. Dryden and several other eminent Hands. The Works of Mr. Congreve in 3 Vols. consisting of his Plays and Poems. Poems on several Occasions written by Mr. Prior. Paradise lost, a Poem, in 12 Books, by Mr. John Milton. The Christian Hero, written by Mr. Steele. N. B. The three last are printed with a neat Elzever Letter in small Pocket Volumes: All Printed for Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's head over-against Catherine-street in the Strand.



*LONDON*: Printed for *S. Buckley*, and *J. Tonson*: And Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-lane*.